



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
January 25, 2002



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## Welcome to JUMP

Welcome to the first edition of "JUMP" (Join Us in Measuring Progress). On the 25th of each month, "JUMP" will provide brief updates and summaries of statewide assessment news. It will be available online (<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/>) and emailed to test coordinators, district contacts, and others who are interested. The online and email versions will be in pdf format. For further information, contact:

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## Second Year of Statewide Testing Begins

March 11-29, Montana students in grades 4, 8, and 11 will take the ITBS/ITED norm-referenced standardized tests, Form A.

Materials for test coordination and administration were mailed to test coordinators and special education directors in preparation for training sessions the week of February 4.

## Timeline for Testing, Scoring, and Reporting

January 18	Materials from OPI mailed to test coordinators and directors of special education
February 4-8	Training Sessions for test coordinators and directors of special education
February 13	Riverside ships trailer packets to test coordinators
February 19	Riverside begins shipping materials to districts based on fall enrollment counts
February 25-March 8	Districts inventory and distribute testing materials
February 25-March 8	Districts fax requests for additional needed materials to Riverside
March 4	Districts administer grade 4 practice tests (optional but materials provided by the state)
March 11-29	Testing window
March 18-April 8	Districts ship materials to Riverside for scoring
April 8	<b>Final day for districts to ship to Riverside</b>
April 12 - May 3	Districts receive local results from Riverside: first in, first out
May 24	OPI receives state summary reports from Riverside

## Training Sessions Scheduled for Testing Procedures

Video and on-site sessions are scheduled for the week of February 4. The session formats are identical with both providing time for questions and answers. There are some significant changes and clarification for coding and administration this year, so all test coordinators and special education directors should plan to attend one of the sessions, either video or on-site. Other district personnel involved in the coordination and administration process are welcome. No advance registration is necessary. *The last 30 minutes are reserved for information specific to county superintendents.*

### February 4, 2002—10:00 am - 1:00 pm Video Training Sessions

City	Site Information
Billings	MSU-Billings, 1500 N. 30th St., Special Ed. Bldg. Room 159
Butte	Montana Tech, 1300 West Park Street, ELCB, Room 231
Glasgow	Francis Mahon Deaconess Hospital, 621 3rd Street South
Great Falls	Great Falls College of Technology MSU, 2100 16th Ave. S., Room B-103
Havre	MSU-Northern, 300 11th Street West, Hagener Science Center, Room 202
Helena	Helena College of Technology, 1115 N. Roberts Street, Room 209
Kalispell	Flathead Valley Community College, 777 Grandview Drive, Learning Resource Center, Room 120
Miles City	Miles Community College, 2715 Dickenson Street, Room 106
Missoula	University of Montana, Corner of Arthur and Eddy, Gallagher Building, Room 104
Sidney	Sidney Health Center, 216 14th Avenue SW

### February 4 - 8, 2002—10:00 am - 1:00 pm On-Site Training Sessions

Date	City	Site Location
Feb. 4	Bozeman	Holiday Inn - 5 Baxter Lane, Jefferson Room
Feb. 5	Great Falls	The Salvation Army 1000 17th Avenue South
Feb. 6	Missoula	Grant Creek Inn 5280 Grant Creek Rd. (off I-90-Reserve Street Exit) Birchwood/Cottonwood Rm.
Feb. 7	Billings	Billings School District Office 415 No. 30th Street, The Board Room
Feb. 8	Glendive	Jefferson School 800 Jefferson School Road, Library

## Materials Needed at the Training Sessions

- Please bring the following materials:
- Packets mailed to test coordinators by the OPI  
Draft *Montana Guide for Test Coordinators and Administrators*  
(Please make copies for everyone attending from your district.)  
Assessment Handbook, Volume 3  
Alternate Assessment Scales, Grades 4, 8, and 11
- Other materials available online:  
<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/index.html>  
Answer Document (any level)—currently online  
(or bring an extra from 2001)  
Test Security Information—currently online  
Memo on Free and Reduced Lunch—currently online  
Training Presentation Outline—available online  
Feb. 1

## New Montana Customer Service Specialist at Riverside Publishing

With questions about the distribution and collection of materials, contact:

Jennifer Boyd, Riverside Publishing  
Phone: (800) 323-9540  
Email: [Jennifer\\_boyd@hmco.com](mailto:Jennifer_boyd@hmco.com)

## Title I Compliance Hearing

At a Public Hearing in December of 2001, the Office of Public Instruction testified on and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education a Proposed Action Plan for Title I Compliance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The plan, originally the second phase of MontCAS (Montana Comprehensive Assessment System) is still under development and must be approved through the U.S. Department of Education's peer review process. The plan currently involves Title I schools only because the funds the OPI has to work with presently are state-level Title I administrative funds which cannot be used to provide an assessment for all students. An abbreviated timetable of the OPI Title I compliance plan includes:

- March 2002 Administer the Iowa Tests to all students in grades 4, 8, and 11
- April 2002 Select a criterion-referenced off-the-shelf test (CRT)
- April 2003 Pilot new CRT
- April 2004 Conduct first full administration of new CRT for Title I schools

The timeline for MontCAS phases 3 and beyond is being revised to follow phase 2. When the results of the compliance hearing are learned, the further phases of MontCAS will be developed.

## Montana Schools to Participate in NAEP Testing

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) testing will begin in Montana the last week of January and conclude by March 8. Approximately 80 schools each will participate in 4th and 8th grade reading and writing assessments. Additionally, four (4) Montana high schools will participate in the national sample of 12th graders in reading and writing.

This year, the administration of NAEP is different from past years. Cooperating schools and districts will no longer send people to training and then administer the tests. This year, test administrators have been hired by WESTAT, the private contractor that works with NAEP, to administer the tests in schools. These test administrators are Montanans, mainly retired teachers or other educators from around the state. This will substantially decrease the burden on participating schools.

The results of this spring's NAEP testing will probably be available by next spring (2003). Montana traditionally has been in the top 5 states in many of the NAEP assessments.

If you have any questions about the NAEP testing, you can contact Tom Rogers at 444-2577. If your school is being tested this spring, and you have scheduling questions, or other issues you may contact Mary Graybeal in Missoula at 721-3330.

## New Submission Date for Five-Year Education Plan

At its January 2002 meeting, the Board of Public Education unanimously adopted a rule change to extend the submission date for district five-year comprehensive education plans to the Office of Public Instruction from May 1, 2002 to May 1, 2003.

The ultimate goal is for districts to generate a single comprehensive education plan that meets local needs and the needs of all state and federal programs, with specific program amendments as necessary. District plans should include:

- (a) a school district level education profile;
- (b) district educational goals;
- (c) a description of planned progress toward implementing all content, performance, and program areas standards;
- (d) a description of strategies for assessing student progress toward meeting all content and performance standards; and
- (e) a professional development component.

The Office of Public Instruction will provide technical assistance for a format/template, conduct regional planning meetings, and present regional workshops. Workshops will be scheduled for April and May of 2002 and will focus specifically on the profile and goal components of district plans.

If you are interested in helping develop the format/template for the plan and process, please contact Linda Vrooman Peterson by telephone at 444-5726 or by email at [lvpeterson@state.mt.us](mailto:lvpeterson@state.mt.us).